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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM DEMINT, a Senator from the State of South Carolina.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who is slow to anger, You are loving and patient beyond our ability to measure or understand.

Today, bless the Members of this body. Give them direction for their work, motivation for their deeds, and forgiveness for their mistakes. Help them to develop a sense of dependence on You. Temper their talents with wisdom, and give them the ability to see the power of cooperation and unity. Discipline their compassion and channel their zeal that they may do Your will.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM DEMINT led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM DEMINT, a Sen-

ator from the State of South Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,

President pro tempore.

Mr. DEMINT assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will return to executive session for the consideration of the nomination of Jerome Holmes to be U.S. circuit judge for the Tenth Circuit. There are 2 hours remaining for debate on this judicial nomination, and therefore, if all that time is necessary, we will vote just before 12 noon today. We will be recessing from 12:30 to 2:15 today to allow for our weekly policy meetings. When we resume business at 2:15, we will begin consideration of the child custody protection bill under an agreement that we reached last Friday. There are up to four amendments that can be considered before we proceed to passage of that bill. We will stay in session this afternoon and evening in order to finish the child custody protection bill, and I hope some of that debate time will be yielded so we can finish that bill at an earlier hour.

I remind everyone again that there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the consideration of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act tomorrow morning. That vote will occur sometime around 10 a.m. so that we can conclude that vote before we go to the scheduled joint meeting. We will proceed to the House of Representatives in order to hear the 11 a.m. address by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq.

The vote will be sometime around 10 a.m. tomorrow, and a little after that

we will convene here in preparation for going to the House of Representatives.

We have had a very productive few weeks since the Fourth of July, addressing the issues surrounding the alternative stem cell technology bill, the fetal farming prohibition bill, the child protection bill, Homeland Security appropriations, the Voting Rights Act reauthorization, the Water Resources Development Act, and confirmed four judges.

We have made great progress over the last few weeks, but we have a lot to do—most immediately the Child Custody Protection Act—today, and then we will move to the deep sea energy exploration issue. Pensions is currently on the way to conference, and I am very hopeful that the conference will be completed at some point in the near future. And we need to address the DOD appropriations bill. So these are very busy times.

The House of Representatives will be going out this week, and we will be here through next week before the recess.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JEROME A. HOLMES TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Calendar No. 764, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jerome A. Holmes, of Oklahoma, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will be 2 hours of debate equally divided between the Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. SPECTER, and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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